



**City of
Norfolk**

Inter Department Correspondence Sheet

TO: Members of Council

FROM: City Clerk

COPIES TO: _____

SUBJECT: Minutes of City Council Meetings

October 4, 2013

Attached are the minutes from the City Council meeting held October 1, 2013.

R. Breckenridge Daughtrey

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2013

President Fraim called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Burfoot, Mr. Riddick, Mr. Smigiel, and Mr. Winn. Ms. Williams arrived at 3:07p.m. Mr. Protogyrou was absent.

He then called on the City Manager for announcements. The manager noted the City's achievement of a higher bond rating from Standard and Poor and recognized staff who traveled to New York to meet with the rating agencies.

The manager next introduced the first agenda item, a report from the Historic Architectural Preservation Committee. Committee members present: Donna Phaneuf, Chair, Mark Perreault, Vice-Chair, Greta Gustavson and Paige Pollard.

The Mayor welcomed Ms. Phaneuf and members of the committee. Ms. Phaneuf offered introductory remarks as follows.

Ms. Donna Phaneuf provided opening remarks on the Historic and Architectural Preservation Committee, which was constituted by City Council in 2008. HAPC was created to advise Council on strategies to enhance the city's position with respect to preservation as preservation relates to the city's historic structures, landmarks and districts, as well as designation methods for future landmarks and districts. With the acceptance of HAPC'S recommendations, the following benefits will occur almost immediately: 1) the city's historic review processes will become simplified, 2) all of our historic districts will be governed equally, 3) it will change the character and authority of the current Design Review Committee to a decision making architectural review board, and 4) will prepare the City to apply for a certified local government status known as CLG. This status will result in a link to a broader base of state and federal grant funding resources for special initiatives through the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the US Department of Interior. Currently there are funding sources available to support flood protection initiatives in historic districts through the National Park Service, but only if they seek this status as a city where they will be able to secure such funds.

Mayor Fraim noted that Council is not going to be making a decision today and that this is just the beginning of the process. Mr. Duke responded that the presentation today will then be moved back to the Planning Commission for public hearing. He also explained that the way the HAPC was created, they would make the report to City Council and if City Council concurs with the recommendation in whole or in part, it would then be presented to the Planning Commission to initiate text amendments and that would then begin the public hearing process, which will then come back to City Council in approximately four to five months after today.

Mr. Frank Duke, Director of Planning, provided a reorientation of what HAPC was designed to do, noting that the Committee was specifically charged with developing ideas on how the city can enhance the historic preservation program to review the programs, ordinances and policies that were in place and look at how they can be modified to better protect some of the historic resources of Norfolk. The first year-and-a-half that HAPC was in existence they developed some preliminary goals which were presented to City Council Communities and Public Safety Committee back in 2010. The next issue explaining how they could incorporate those into an ordinance revision for Chapter 9 of the Zoning Ordinance, the city's Historic District Ordinance. Based on public input HAPC established three things that became a priority for these zoning regulations: a) to qualify for CLG status under state and federal guidelines; b) to establish a status for protecting individual properties, the historic landmark program as opposed to a historic district program; and c) to try to simplify the format to ease understanding of ordinance requirements. To do this an architectural review board with real decision making authority is needed and the current board that comes closest to that is the Design Review Committee, but they have no decision making authority.

HAPC has recommended creation of an Architectural Review Board and their recommendation is that this board be composed of a group similar to the current Design Review Committee, but a little bigger. They are proposing six professionals made up of architects, landscape architects, historic preservation professionals as the types of professionals they would be looking for and two people who live or own property in the historic districts. At present the Design Review Committee is required to have one and then they want to try to strengthen the connection between the Planning Commission and the Architectural Review Board (ARB) and are recommending one planning commissioner be designated as a member of the ARB.

In conclusion, Mr. Duke noted that the administration does support all of the recommendations made by HAPC with the exception of expanding the right of appeal and the reason for that is that they feel that it is counter to what they are trying to do with expediting processes and streamlining what they do; so they would recommend leaving the right of appeal to City Council where it is today.

A. HAMPTON ROADS SANITATION DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION STUDY

Kirsten Lentz, Director of Utilities, reported as follows:

- The study projected savings over 30 years is estimated to be \$948 million for region and \$201 million for Norfolk, but there is a significant margin of error and savings do not occur evenly among localities.
- Most member localities do not support outright consolidation and are concerned about loss of return on investment, no payment for system net worth, economic development issues and uneven distribution of projected savings among others.
- An alternative has been proposed that would capture cost savings for the region that and preserve local ownerships, operation and maintenance of system with HRSD responsible for wet weather capacity and capacity improvements.
- HRSD is discussing the alternative with regulators and, if they agree, HRSD will likely ask for letters of intent from member localities.

B. COUNCIL ISSUES

1. Councilman Riddick complimented the Police Department on their handling of Walker Avenue and asked for increased presence for the 1000 Block of Grayson Street, stating that they need to see some visibility over there. He also provided the Manager with a written concern.
2. Councilman Winn asked for a recap on the government shared services program, stating that they made great progress on the first round and saved a lot of money and asked what's next.

Manager Jones responded that he's had some discussion about this recently about going to Phase II, which would be looking at the main guidance on the list and opening it up once again and going to seek some financial support.

3. Councilwoman Whibley a) asked as part of the legislative agenda if they can consider changing the school board appointments to four years and b) asked if they can schedule time during a work session for a discussion on what they are doing with committees and commissions.
4. Vice Mayor Burfoot complimented Mr. James Rogers who was instrumental in helping a family acquire the necessary services and shelter because they were about to be put out on the street. He expressed concern with slumlords in parts of Ocean View who have tenants living in run down units that are not habitable, stating that the city has a responsibility to handle landlords who operate badly. He would like to have someone from Codes go out and look in some of these fragile areas and take an inventory so they can bring some of these units up to code so they are habitable for citizens to live in and be able to raise their families in.